

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 132403

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, SZ, IT, VT

SUBJECT: THE HOLY SEE AND THE UN SSOD

REF: STATE 101367

FOR WALTERS FROM THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

1. YOU MAY ASSURE CASAROLI THAT HIGHEST LEVELS OF
DEPARTMENT HAVE REVIEWED ENTIRE ISSUE OF A REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE HOLY SEE ADDRESSING THE UNSSOD IN GENERAL DEBATE.
THIS REVIEW HAS RESULTED IN A REAFFIRMATION OF OUR
PREVIOUS POSITION: I.E., WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ADDRESS
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BY HOLY SEE REPRESENTATIVE TO PLENARY SESSION OF THE
UNSSOD DURING GENERAL DEBATE WOULD ACCORD WITH UNGA RULES
AND PRACTICES. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT, IF THE HOLY SEE WERE
PERMITTED TO DO SO, AN UNDESIRABLE PRECEDENT WOULD BE
SET WHEREBY THE PLO AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES OF ENTITIES
OTHER THAN MEMBER STATES COULD CLAIM THE RIGHT TO PARTICI-
PATE IN UNGA GENERAL DEBATES.

2. IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH CASAROLI YOU MAY POINT OUT THAT IN THE PAST, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS INDEED HEARD ADDRESSES BY INDIVIDUALS NOT REPRESENTING MEMBER STATES, E.G., POPE PAUL VI, ELEANOR ROOSEVELT, ETC., BUT THAT

ON THESE OCCASIONS THE GA WAS FORMALLY ADJOURNED AND MET IN A CEREMONIAL SESSION. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE GA SESSION WAS RECONVENED IN FORMAL SESSION. THUS THE QUESTION OF REPRESENTATIVES ON NON-MEMBER STATES ADDRESSING PLENARY DURING GENERAL DEBATE DID NOT ARISE. FYI: THE CONVENING OF A SPECIAL, CEREMONIAL SESSION FOR ARCH-BISHOP CASAROLI TO READ A MESSAGE FROM THE POPE WOULD NOT AVOID THE PROBLEM AND COULD LEAD TO ARAFAT'S SENDING SPECIAL MESSAGES TO BE READ BY QADDUMI. END FYI.

3. YOU MIGHT ALSO WISH TO SUGGEST AGAIN TO CASAROLI THAT VATICAN TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT PROPOSAL ADVANCED BY UK (PARA 2 REFTEL) REGARDING USE OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ALTERNATIVE. CHRISTOPHER

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